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Matsu Borough Planning

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4/12/07**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH****Planning and Land Use Department**

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April 6, 2007

John Tolley  
Chief of Planning & Administrative Services  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 196900  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

Re: 2007-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Tolley:

*John*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2007-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) submits the following comments:

- Please address increased funding for the National Highway System (NHS). The proposed STIP amendment delays project funding for a significant number of Glenn Highway and Parks Highway projects in the MSB. For example, it is important that the design of the Glenn Highway from the Parks Glenn interchange to the Palmer Fishhook Road not be interrupted and be funded in FY'08.
- The Borough supports full funding of the Trunk Road Project Phase I in 2008.
- Funding for rut repair on the National Highway System needs to be included in the STIP. Not establishing an effective rut repair program as interim repairs to the NHS will lead to unsafe driving conditions by increasing hydroplaning and icing. Both the Glenn Highway into Palmer and the Parks Highway from Wasilla to Big Lake need rut repair now.
- Please identify the funding impacts the Gravina Island Bridge, the Knik Arm Crossing, the Juneau Access road projects is having on the existing NHS system.
- Three of the most dangerous roads in Alaska are within the Borough's boundaries: Parks Highway, Wasilla to Big Lake; Knik-Goose Bay Road; and Palmer-Wasilla Highway. The funding for capital improvements to these roads needs to be provided. As an example the Knik Goose-Bay Road should be upgraded to a 4-lane from Wasilla to MP 10. This design funding to start this project should be added to the STIP. If not addressed in the STIP, these routes need to be included as ADOT&PF State General Fund priorities.
- The MSB supports converting the South Big Road Realignment project from federal funding to state general funds. It should be added to the \$5 Million GI project which now includes the Burma Road Upgrade. This General Fund Project should include the routing of the new a new connection to the Parks Highway around the existing Big Lake

Community center. The MSB requests that the federal funds now allocated to the South Big Lake Road Realignment project to the Trunk Road Phase I project or to another MSB highway need such as the Glenn Highway Parks Highway to Palmer Fishhook Road to the design process moving.

- \$20 Million should be added to the STIP for the Seward Meridian Road Improvements project.

We recognize the limitations of the federal funding program and believe there is a need to establish a state funded transportation program based on priority ranking to address safety and capacity issues. A local match criterion should be included in this program in order to receive state funds. The Borough is eager to work with ADOT&PF to implement such a state funded transportation program.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



M. Murph O'Brien, Director  
Planning and Land Use

cc John Duffy, Borough Manager